



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Transportation Grace Crunican, Director

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

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The Seattle Pedestrian
Advisory Board shall
advise the City Council,
the Mayor, and all
departments and offices
of the City on matters
related to pedestrians
and the impacts which
actions by the City may
have upon the
pedestrian environment;
and shall have the
opportunity to contribute
to all aspects of the
City's planning
processes insofar as
they may relate to
pedestrian safety and
access.

City Council Resolution 28791

9 March 2006

Mayor Greg Nickels
PO Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Dear Mayor Nickels:

Thank you for making pedestrian safety a major issue in your State of the City Address. We strongly agree with your statement that Seattle should "...be the best city for walking safely" and we applaud your efforts to promote a safe and enjoyable pedestrian environment. Budget allocations for pedestrian programs have decreased in the last five years, so we were pleased to hear your proposal that "a significant portion" of \$2.5 million in transportation improvement funds be used for pedestrian projects. Below is a list of priority pedestrian programs for the upcoming two-year budget.

- \$300,000 for a Pedestrian Master Plan. The requested amount for Seattle's Pedestrian Master Plan is based on the funds currently being used to develop Seattle's Bicycle Master Plan. Seattle's Pedestrian Master Plan would prioritize pedestrian projects and identify long-term funding opportunities. The Plan would integrate the overall objective of a safe, walkable city composed of unique Urban Villages, with details about the infrastructure required to achieve these goals.

- \$2 million each year for new sidewalk development and repair. Allocations in the 2006 budget will improve a few of our city's blocks, but approximately 500 miles of streets in Seattle lack sidewalks altogether, and funding for sidewalks has not yet been restored to 2003-2004 levels. If the city is serious about pedestrian issues, we should fund projects that affect a majority of its citizens. We can't say we're moving forward if we're moving one block at a time, so in the next two years, let's take a major step toward our goal of a safe pedestrian environment in all Seattle neighborhoods.

- \$500,000 each year for sidewalk maintenance and special project funds that address pedestrian safety issues at intersections. These funds would give us the flexibility to respond to pressing needs in pedestrian safety such as sidewalk repair, crosswalk markings and traffic redirecting, as they arise.

- \$966,000 for pedestrian safety for Elderly and People with Disabilities ("Handicapped" in earlier wording). This would restore this program to its 2004 funding levels.

We are all proud of Seattle's reputation as a healthy, walkable city. With your commitment and leadership, we can achieve the goal of making Seattle even safer and more pedestrian-friendly. We urge you and City Council to implement our proposals stated here, and to generate additional revenues for pedestrian programs, facilities, and infrastructure. SPAB looks forward to working with the City Council and the Mayor's office to keep Seattle walkable and safe.

Sincerely,

Chris Tachibana, Member
Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board



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cc: Seattle City Councilmembers, Peter Lagerwey (SDOT), Grace Crunican (Director of SDOT)